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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/500,639	02/09/2000	Chun-Ming Lu	6978.0097	2896

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KENYON & KENYON
1500 K STREET, N.W., SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

SCHLAIFER, JONATHAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/500,639

Applicant(s)

LU ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan D. Schlaifer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-12 and 15-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-12 and 15-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Request for Continued Examination filed on 8/20/2004.
2. Claims 2, 3, 13, 14, and 25 remain cancelled.
3. Claims 1, 4-12, and 15-24 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 12, 23, and 24 are independent claims. Claims 1, 12, 23, and 24 have been amended.
4. The rejections of claims 1, 12 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Graber are withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
5. The rejections of claims 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber, further in view of Horstmann are withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
6. The rejections of claims 5 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber, further in view of Horstmann, further in view of Ogle are withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
7. The rejections of claims 6-8 and 17-19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber, further in view of Muller, further in view of Fogg are withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
8. The rejections of claims 9-10 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber, further in view of Kirsch are withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
9. The rejections of claims 11 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graber, further in view of Fogg are withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. **Claims 1, 9-10, 12, 20-21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kirsch (USPN 5,751,956 – filing date 2/21/1996).**
2. **Regarding independent claim 1, Kirsch discloses:** “a basic server based system of URL redirection for servers and clients” (col. 4, lines 11-12). This is equivalent to “forwarding a web address to another web address in a network”, comprising the steps of:
 - a. Receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI) (Kirsch on col. 4, lines 10-20: specifies receiving a redirect directive, which would inherently be directed toward a certain web address);
 - b. Determining a forwarding uniform resource location (URL) that corresponds to the domain name (Kirsch on col. 4, lines 15-20: the user’s input determines a new URL via the redirect command)
 - c. Combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier (Kirsch on col. 4, lines 15-25: the suffix of the address is maintained while the URL prefix is replaced) and

- d. Redirecting the request to the second web address (Kirsch on col. 4, lines 20-30:
the new address is used as the basis of a request)
3. **Regarding dependent claim 9**, Kirsch discloses the method of claim 1. In col. 10, lines 30-35, Kirsch teach how a URL is “issued back to the client system”, in order to issue a redirection request. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to send the user a string that includes the forwarding URL. This constitutes sending the user a string that includes the forwarding URL using a hypertext transfer protocol location command.
4. **Regarding dependent claim 10**, Kirsch discloses the method of claim 1. In col. 10, lines 30-35, Kirsch teach how a URL is “issued back to the client system”, which is done by http in the context of the invention, in order to issue a redirection request. This constitutes sending the user a string that includes the forwarding URL using a hypertext transfer protocol location command.
5. **Regarding independent claim 12**, a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1, and is rejected under the same rationale.
6. **Regarding dependent claim 20**, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 4, and is rejected under the same rationale.
7. **Regarding dependent claim 21**, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 10, and is rejected under the same rationale.

8. **Regarding independent claim 23**, an apparatus with a memory and a processor for performing the steps recited in claim 1, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirsch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Horstmann et al (USPN 5,995,099 – filing date 6/10/1996).**
10. **Regarding dependent claim 4**, Kirsch discloses the method of claim 1. However, Kirsch does not explicitly disclose the details of the determining step, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether a search for forwarding information can be completed, and indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed. However, in Figure 5, Steps 52 and 53, Horstmann et al. (Horstmann) teaches that one should attempt to see if pages exist in order to establish if links “correspond with valid page addresses” (col. 5, lines 9-10). Subsequently, an error message is generated if there is a problem (col. 5, lines 10-11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add an error check and message feature onto Kirsch’s invention to determine if a search for forwarding information could be completed and to indicate that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

11. **Regarding dependent claim 15**, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 4, and is rejected under the same rationale.
12. **Claims 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirsch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Horstmann et al (USPN 5,995,099 – filing date 6/10/1996) as applied to claims 4 and 15 above, and further in view of Ogle et al. (USPN 6,052,736 – filing date 3/31/1997).**
13. **Regarding dependent claim 5**, Kirsch and Horstmann disclose the method of claim 4. However, they fail to disclose directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found. Ogle et al. (Ogle) teach that in a network a “datagram may be sent to a default address” to deal with the case “if no direct or indirect route is specified” (col. 2, lines 26-27). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Kirsch and Horstmann et al.’s work, as in claim 4, and further improve the result by the means of directing web requests to a default address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found in order to deal with the case where no set destination is provided.
14. **Regarding dependent claim 16**, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 5, and is rejected under the same rationale.

15. **Claims 6-8 and 17-19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirsch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Muller et al. (USPN 6,128,279 – filing date 6/30/1997), and further in view of Fogg et al. (USPN 6,321,242 – filing date 2/6/1998).**
16. **Regarding dependent claim 6,** Kirsch discloses the method of claim 1. Kirsch fails to disclose that the determining step would comprise searching a data file for the forwarding URL. In Muller et al. (Muller), they teach how to use a forwarding database search engine may be used in network routing “for achieving a cost-effective high-performance switch implementation” (col. 1, lines 14-17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate a forwarding database (which would necessitate searching a data file for the forward URL) into the design of Kirsch’s invention in order to achieve a cost-effective high-performance routing implementation.
17. **Regarding dependent claim 7,** Kirsch and Muller disclose the method of claim 6. They fail to disclose wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of extracting forwarding information from a customer database and storing the forwarding information in the data file. Fogg et al. (Fogg, col. 4, lines 45-49) teaches, “When the receiver webmaster changes the uniform resource locator (URL) of a documents (210) the receiver re-liner generates a re-link message” with the motivation “to easily update hypertext links in documents on feeder sites to point to new locations for a receiving site document when the document has been relocated” (lines 62-65, column 1). This would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to improve the results of combining the work of Kirsch and Muller et al. by adding a data generator that periodically updates a data file by extracting forwarding information from a database and storing the forwarding information in the data file.

18. Regarding dependent claim 8, Kirsch, Muller, and Fogg disclose the method of claim 7.

It is further necessary to have the customer database include a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL. Muller et al. teaches how to employ a data table to associates an "IP source address" with an "Internet Protocol (IP) destination address" (col. 13, lines 15-16) to provide "information for making real-time packet forwarding and filtering decisions" (col. 11, lines 66-67). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a similar data table as in Muller that associates the domain name with the forwarding URL in order to provide information for forwarding and filtering decisions.

19. Regarding dependent claim 17, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 4, and is rejected under the same rationale.

20. Regarding dependent claim 18, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 7, and is rejected under the same rationale.

21. Regarding dependent claim 19, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 8, and is rejected under the same rationale.

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22. **Regarding dependent claim 24**, it is a system that is capable of executing the method of claim 7, and is rejected under similar rationale.
23. **Claims 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirsch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fogg et al. (USPN 6,321,242 – filing date 2/6/1998).**
24. **Regarding dependent claim 11**, Kirsch discloses the method of claim 1. Kirsch's work lacks the feature of explicitly stating that the user provides the web request. In lines 60-65, Fogg et al. describe how it is common practice for a user to send a "request message to the receiving site" by "clicking on a hypertext link", in order to retrieve a document. Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have the user supply the request in order to select a document .
25. **Regarding dependent claim 22**, it is a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 11, and is rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Amendment

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-12, and 15-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The applicant's amendments significantly change the scope of the claimed invention.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USPN 5,572,643 (filing date 10/19/1995)—Judson


USPN 5,640,193 (filing date 6/17/1997)—Wellner

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan D. Schlaifer whose telephone number is (571) 272-4129. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JS


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER